

ABSTRACT

1 A method includes receiving a name associated with a user on a remote computer,
2 the name including location data and a hash value uniquely associated with a data object
3 representing the user and retrieving the data object from one of a local cache based on the
4 hash value or a location identified by the location data. A system for managing objects
5 representing users in an instant messaging conversation includes a data object
6 representing a user, the data object having an object name including a location identifier
7 and a hash value, the object name allowing, and an object store operable to retrieve the
8 data object from a location identified by the location identifier and store the data object in
9 a local cache based on the hash value.
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